

NEWS RELEASE

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Carol A. Murray, Commissioner

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WORK BEGINS ON STATE TRANSPORTATION BUSINESS PLAN
UNIQUE “CUSTOMER DRIVEN” EFFORT SEEKS VISION FOR NEW HAMPSHIRE

“Transportation is the game board that everything else is played upon.” With that introduction, Department of Transportation (NHDOT) Commissioner Carol Murray has launched an innovative initiative to identify future transportation issues and needs vital to the citizens of New Hampshire, along with determining the strategies and actions necessary to achieve those goals. The Business Plan will serve as a blueprint to assist the NHDOT in transitioning from “project oriented” planning and programming to a customer and performance-based approach.

In partnership with the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, the NHDOT is seeking to develop a “New Hampshire Transportation Business Plan” with significant input from a 23-member “Community Advisory Committee” (CAC) of key civic, business and government leaders representing a broad spectrum of organizations and interests. Executive Councilor Raymond Burton serves as the CAC’s Vice Chair and as a critical link to GACIT, the Governor’s Advisory Commission on Intermodal Transportation, which is charged with updating the state’s 10 year Transportation Improvement Plan every two years.

“We’ve never had an in-depth discussion about what future mobility means for New Hampshire’s residents,” Commissioner Murray says. “This is an attempt to get more focused in working with cities, towns and citizens to determine our state’s long-term transportation needs while preserving our precious environment and recognizing the link between transportation, land use and decision-making.”

“We were intrigued by Commissioner Murray’s invitation to help the agency convene a Community Advisory Committee that brought together those engaged in the transportation arena, along with new voices that can help NHDOT plan for a future that serves all of our state’s transportation needs,” said Lew Feldstein, president of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation and Chair of the Community Advisory Committee. “The CAC will help the Department adapt to a changing landscape by creating new approaches to transportation projects that better serve community needs, and make clear the tough choices that we must make in deciding how to spend shrinking resources. We look forward to the challenge.”

The independent Community Advisory Committee, which has representation from such groups as the NH Municipal Association, the NH Motor Transport Association, the Society for the Protection of NH Forests, C&J Trailways Bus Company, NH Housing Finance Authority, Easter Seals and the Conservation Law Foundation, will work closely with the state’s nine Regional Planning Commissions to gather input from citizens at public sessions held across the state. This “customer-driven” approach is aimed at identifying, understanding and prioritizing customers’ needs.

Based upon this public input and analysis, and a review of the state’s current 10-year planning process, a final State Transportation Business Plan is expected to be completed by late 2005. The final plan will include recommendations to implement new policies and programs that better serve the state’s changing transportation needs.

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